

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /074 W

-----181833Z 122827 /53

R 181345Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4466

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MISSIONARIES IN ERITREA

REF: (A) ASMARA 0287, (B) ASMARA 0307

1. THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN ADDIS HAS INFORMED THE MIDDLE EAST GENERAL MISSION (MEGM) IN ASMARA THAT ITS TWO MISSIONARIES WHO WERE WORKING IN TESSENNEY HAVE ARRIVED SAFELY IN KHARTOUM (REF A). THERE ARE LOCAL REPORTS THAT THE COMMERCIAL LIFE IN TESSENNEY UNDER ELF CONTROL IS RETURNING TO NORMAL AS THE FIGHTING IS NOW CENTERED AROUND THE EPMG MILITARY CAMP ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN. THESE REPORTS SEEM TO BE BELIED BY FRIENDS OF THE TWO MEGM MISSIONARIES WHO CLAIM THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY WAY IN WHICH THEY COULD HAVE REMAINED IN TESSENNEY, THEY WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY HAVE DONE SO.

2. THE FIRST OF THE SEVEN SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION (SEM) WORKERS IN KEREN HAS RETURNED TO ASMARA ABOARD A FORMER EAL DC-3 WHICH IS NOW UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY. THE REMAINING SEM MEMBERS HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE LETTER FROM THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF ERITREA INSTRUCTING THEM TO CLOSE THE DEAF SCHOOL (REF B). UPON RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SIX REMAINING SEM MISSIONARIES AND DEPENDENTS WILL
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INITIATE EFFORTS TO EVACUATE THE 40 STUDENTS TO ASMARA AND WILL THEN ACCOMPANY THEM (REMAINING SIX ARE: TWO ADULT FINNS, TWO SWEDISH ADULTS AND TWO SWEDISH CHILDREN). THE TWO BRITISH CITIZEN MEMBERS OF MEGM IN KEREN HAVE YET TO RECEIVE THEIR INSTRUCTIONS TO COME TO ASMARA. THEY ARE NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE ANY PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING EITHER PERMISSION TO LEAVE OR TRANSPORTATION TO ASMARA.

3. THE RETURNING SEM MISSIONARY REPORTS THAT THE SITUATION IS QUIET AT THE MOMENT, BUT THAT THE EPMG TROOPS ARE CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR EMPLACEMENTS AROUND THE CITY. ALTHOUGH SHE COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT THE INSURGENTS HAD GIVEN THE RESIDENTS OF KEREN 20 DAYS TO LEAVE THE CITY, MANY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY LEFT AND MANY HOUSES ARE NOW ABANDONED. THE EPMG TROOPS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION AND ARE PILFERING SOME OF THE HOUSES TO MAKE THEIR FORTIFIED POSITIONS MORE COMFORTABLE.
WAUCHOPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, MISSIONARIES, EVACUATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ASMARA00318
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770134-0366
Format: TEL
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770449/aaaabpuq.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9cdcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ASMARA 287, 77 ASMARA 307
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2780935
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MISSIONARIES IN ERITREA
TAGS: PINS, SGEN, AEMR, ET
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9cdcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009